CLAIMS

1. A stress-test information database stored in a computer-readable medium and usable for

5   storing information related to a stress-test of different products, comprising:

a product data entity storing product-specific information for a plurality of the

different products that may be subjected to the stress-test;

a process data entity storing testing process information for conducting one or more

stress-test processes of the stress-test;

10   a result data entity storing stress-test result information relating to one or more

results of the stress-test processes;

a product-result map relating said product data entity to said result data entity; and

a process-result map relating said process data entity to said result data entity.

15   2. The stress-test database according to claim 1, wherein a plurality of equipment may be

utilized to conduct the stress-test, the database further comprising:

a command data entity storing command information that may be utilized to

command the equipment; and

an equipment data entity storing information relating to the equipment;

20   said equipment data entity being associated with said command data entity to permit

a variety of equipment-specific command information to be retrieved.

3. The stress-test database according to claim 2,

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said command data entity including a generic command data entity storing

information relating to generic commands usable to conduct the stress test processes and an

equipment command string data entity usable for translating generic commands to

equipment-specific commands,

5   said generic command data entity being associated with said equipment command

string data entity; and

said equipment data entity being associated with said command data entity,

wherein a generic command may be translated into an equipment-specific command

via the associations between said generic command data entity, said equipment command

10   string data entity, and said equipment data entity.

4. The stress-test database according to claim 3, wherein the equipment includes test

equipment, equipment of the product being stress-tested, and/or communications equipment.

15   5. The stress-test database according to claim 3, further comprising:

a parsing table storing information relating to parsing of equipment-specific data

received as a result of the stress test;

said parsing table being associated with said equipment data entity to permit the

equipment-specific data to be parsed into a more consistent format suitable for storage by

20   said result data entity.

6. The stress-test database according to claim 1,

   said product data entity including product group, product line and product

5 identification data entities respectively storing information relating to groups of products,

product lines within product groups, and specific product identification;

   said product data entity being associated with said product group data entity and said

product line data entity.

10 7. The stress-test database according to claim 6,

   said product group data entity storing product group ID and group description

information;

   said product line data entity storing product line ID, product line name, and product

line description information; and

15 said product data entity storing product ID, product name, product group ID, product

description, product part number and product line ID information.

8. The stress-test database according to claim 1, wherein the stress test utilizes at least one

virtual oven, said process data entity including:

20 a virtual oven data entity storing information relating to one or more virtual ovens

that may be utilized to conduct the stress test.

9. The stress-test database according to claim 1, wherein the stress test utilizes at least one virtual oven, said process data entity including:

a process information item storing information relating to stress test process identity and test process description;

5   a process test run data entity storing information relating to stress test process identity, virtual oven identity and stress test process start/stop time(s); and

a virtual oven data entity storing information relating to virtual oven identity, virtual oven description and virtual oven location,

said process test run data entity relating said virtual oven data entity to said process

10   information item in order to permit functional associations between virtual ovens, stress test processes, and process-test runs.

10. The stress-test database according to claim 9, said result data entity including:

a result format data entity storing information identifying and formatting stress-test

15   result information relating to one or more stress-test processes;

a result value data entity storing stress-test result values; and

a process-result data entity mapping stress-test result values to stress-test processes;

said result format data entity being associated with said result value data entity and said process-result data entity.

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11. The stress-test database according to claim 10, further comprising:

a test criteria data entity storing information relating to stress-test criteria, said test criteria data entity being associated with said result value data entity,

said result value data entity item further including a pass/fail information item,

said result value data entity and said test criteria data entity being usable to

determine whether the product has passed or failed one or more of the stress-test processes.

5   12. The stress-test database according to claim 11, said test criteria data entity including:

a limit type data entity storing information relating to fixed limit, percentage range

and/or delta range test criteria limits;

a run limit value data entity storing information relating to run limit values; and

a test run data entity storing information relating to a stress-test run identification

10   information,

said test run data entity being associated with said run limit value data entity and

said result data entity to establish a functional relationship therebetween;

said limit type data entity being associated with said run limit value data entity and

said product-result data entity to establish a functional relationship therebetween,

15   wherein the association permit a result value for a particular test run and product to

be compared against a corresponding run limit value.

13. A method of storing information related to a stress-test of different products in a computer-readable stress-test information database, comprising:

    storing product-specific information for a plurality of the different products that may

5 be subjected to the stress-test in a product data entity;

    storing testing process information for conducting one or more stress-test processes

of the stress-test in a process data entity;

    storing stress-test result information relating to one or more results of the stress-test

processes in a result data entity;

10   relating the product data entity to the result data entity with a product-result map;

and

    relating the process data entity to the result data entity with a process-result map.

14. The method of storing information related to a stress-test of different products in a

15 computer-readable stress-test information database according to claim 13, wherein a

plurality of equipment is utilized to conduct the stress-test, the method further comprising:

    storing command information that may be utilized to command the equipment in a

command data entity; and

    storing information relating to the equipment in an equipment data entity;

20   associating the equipment data entity with the command data entity to permit a

variety of equipment-specific command information to be retrieved.

15. The method of storing information related to a stress-test of different products in a computer-readable stress-test information database according to claim 14,

said storing command information step including:

storing information relating to generic commands usable to conduct the

5   stress test processes in a generic command data entity, and

storing equipment-specific commands in an equipment command string data entity;

associating the generic command data entity to the equipment command string data entity; and

10   associating the equipment data entity with the command data entity,

said storing steps permitting a generic command to be translated into an equipment-specific command via the associations between the generic command data entity, the equipment command string data entity, and the equipment data entity.

15   16.   The method of storing information related to a stress-test of different products in a computer-readable stress-test information database according to claim 15, wherein the equipment includes test equipment, equipment of the product being stress-tested, and/or communications equipment.

20   17.   The method of storing information related to a stress-test of different products in a computer-readable stress-test information database according to claim 15, further comprising:

storing information relating to parsing of equipment-specific data received as a result of the stress test in a parsing table;

said result data entity being associated with said parsing table to permit storage of parsed result information in the result data entity; and

5   associating said parsing table with said equipment data entity to permit the equipment-specific data to be parsed into a more consistent format for storage by the result data entity.

18.   The method of storing information related to a stress-test of different products in a

10   computer-readable stress-test information database according to claim 13, further comprising:

respectively storing information relating to groups of products, product lines within product groups, and specific product identification in a product group data entity, a product line data entity, and a product identification data entity of the product data entity; and

15   associating the product data entity with the product group data entity and the product line data entity.

19.   The method of storing information related to a stress-test of different products in a computer-readable stress-test information database according to claim 18, further

20   comprising:

storing product group ID and group description information in the product group data entity;

storing product line ID, product line name, and product line description information in the product line data entity; and

storing product ID, product name, product group ID, product description, product part number and product line ID information in the product data entity.

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20. The method of storing information related to a stress-test of different products in a computer-readable stress-test information database according to claim 13, wherein the stress test utilizes at least one virtual oven, the method further comprising:

storing information relating to one or more virtual ovens that may be utilized to

10 conduct the stress test in a virtual oven data entity of the process data entity.

21. The method of storing information related to a stress-test of different products in a computer-readable stress-test information database according to claim 13, wherein the stress test utilizes at least one virtual oven,

15 said storing testing process information step including:

storing information relating to stress test process identity and test process description in a process information item of the process data entity,

storing information relating to stress test process identity, virtual oven identity and stress test process start/stop time(s) in a process test run data entity of

20 the process data entity, and

storing information relating to virtual oven identity, virtual oven description and virtual oven location in a virtual oven data entity of the process data entity; and

relating the virtual oven data entity to the process information item via the process

test run data entity in order to permit functional associations between virtual ovens, stress

test processes, and process-test runs.

5   22.   The method of storing information related to a stress-test of different products in a

computer-readable stress-test information database according to claim 21,

said storing stress-test result information including:

storing information identifying and formatting stress-test result information

relating to one or more stress-test processes in a result format data entity of the result

10   data entity, and

storing stress-test result values in a result value data entity of the result data

entity;

the method further comprising:

mapping stress-test result values to stress-test processes with a process-result data

15   entity;

associating the result format data entity with the result value data entity and the

process-result data entity.

23.   The method of storing information related to a stress-test of different products in a

20   computer-readable stress-test information database according to claim 22, further

comprising:

including a pass/fail information item in the result value data entity;

storing information relating to stress-test criteria in a test criteria data entity; and

associating the test criteria data entity with the result value data entity such that the

result value data entity and the test criteria data entity are usable to determine whether the

product has passed or failed one or more of the stress-test processes.

5   24.   The method of storing information related to a stress-test of different products in a

computer-readable stress-test information database according to claim 23,

said storing test criteria data including:

storing information relating to fixed limit, percentage range and/or delta range test

criteria limits in a limit type data entity of the test criteria data entity,

10   storing information relating to run limit values in a run limit value data entity of the

test criteria data entity,

storing information relating to a stress-test run identification information in a test run

data entity of the test criteria data entity,

associating the test run data entity with the run limit value data entity and the result

15   data entity to establish a functional relationship therebetween; and

associating the limit type data entity with the run limit value data entity and the

product-result data entity to establish a functional relationship therebetween;

said associating steps permitting a result value for a particular test run and product to

be compared against a corresponding run limit value.

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